

NET FOR BOERS

LOD KITCHENER AGAIN TRYING TO ENMESH THE WILY ENEMY.

His Troops Are Surrounding Two Bodies of Raiders, and He Has Another Force Ready to Close In.

GEN. DE WET NEAR SENEKAL

BOER MOVEMENT IN CAPE COLONY PROBABLY CHECKED.

Brittany Occupied by a Commando of Burgers and the Railway South of De Aar Junction Cut.

FIGHT NEAR OLIPHANT'S NEK

GENERAL FRENCH IN CONTACT WITH BEYERS AND DELAREY.

Two Commandos Defeated by Gen. Colville—Over 100,000 Mules and Horses Sent to South Africa.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Lord Kitchener's dispatches, breathing a confidence hardly justified by their contents, are almost the only available news from the seat of hostilities in South Africa, but telegrams from Cape Town depict the situation in anything but rosy hues.

Lord Kitchener's dispatches show he is again attempting to drive the Boers into a net and capture or kill them. His first dispatch last night, dated Pretoria, Dec. 22, says:

"As far as it is possible for me to form an opinion from the reports of officers on the spot, I think the Boer movement into Cape Colony has been checked. Of the two forces that entered the colony, the eastern is still north of the Zoutpansberg range, while the one that entered west appears to have been turned in the direction of Britstown and Prieska. Our troops are getting around both bodies, and a special column is also being organized which will be dispatched immediately when I know where its services are most wanted.

"The Boers have not received much assistance in Cape Colony as far as my information goes. We have armed some of the colonists, who are assisting our forces. Railway and telegraph communication has been much interrupted by the very bad weather.

"De Wet is in the neighborhood of Senekal.

"General French, in conjunction with General Clements, attacked a force under Beyers, south of Magaliesberg. The Boers broke away in a southerly direction, toward Rietfontein, and were followed by General Gordon with a column of French's force. Yesterday evening about 5 o'clock Clements's force was engaged south of Oliphant's nek, but I do not yet know the result."

A later dispatch from Lord Kitchener, dated Pretoria, Dec. 22, says:

"The western column of Boers occupied Britstown and cut the railway south of De Aar Junction. The enemy is being followed up.

"General French has been in contact for two days with the commandos of Beyers and Delarey, south of Magaliesberg. He is pursuing them. The enemy have lost tremendously, and Commandant Kruze and others have been captured.

"General Colville engaged two separate commandos on Dec. 21, near Vlakfontein, with slight losses, the enemy retreating."

INVASION OF CAPE COLONY.
Without believing the assertion of the Transvaal agency in Brussels that 6,000 Boers have invaded Cape Colony, it is quite evident that the invasion was a serious and well-planned affair. In connection with this a correspondent sends an extremely interesting letter, dated Bethulie, Dec. 1, describing General De Wet and his doings.

"De Wet has never been taken seriously enough," says the correspondent. "It is of little use to pursue him, as he fights a rear guard action and gains twenty miles while he is being fought. He is a born military genius, whose wonderful powers have kept up this phenomenal resistance. Once he fails the whole thing could be crushed in a fortnight. He has every single commando under his supervision. All his patrols and columns march and counter-march on his order. The forces under his command have been reduced by his strength of will to a properly organized army, moving at his word. The sooner the British rid themselves of the idea that De Wet's forces are a mere rabble, wandering aimlessly, the sooner they will grasp the need of the determined effort which is necessary to capture him."

The Cape Colony Cabinet had an important sitting yesterday (Sunday). It appears that the Boers have destroyed a railway bridge ninety feet long about twelve miles south of De Aar, and that no Cape mails have arrived at Bloemfontein for three days. Further anxiety has been caused in Cape Town by the discovery that during the last two months public bodies in out of the way places have requisitioned supplies of dynamite. The colonial government is now endeavoring to recover possession of these explosives, and is removing all stores of arms and ammunition from the suspected depots.

Other advices from Cape Town represent the Dutch element in Cape Colony as greatly elated over the southward progress of the Boers, and are boasting that the whole district of Victoria West will join the raiders. It is suspected in Cape Town that the force traveling from Zoutpansburg is not a body of Boers but one of Colonials, hastening to join the invaders.

The Pietermaritzburg correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "The Boers are active between Johannesburg and Pretoria, exchanging shots with the British outposts; and it is reported that parties of Boers are hovering around Johannesburg."

MULES AND HORSES.

Over 100,000 Sent to South Africa Since the War Began.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 23.—Captain Hergate, of the British army, is purchasing 90,000 cavalry horses and mules for the British army in South Africa. He came here more than a year ago to buy horses and mules for the British army, but he was ordered home a short time ago be-

EARLIBETTER

MAY BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE ENVOYS' JOINT NOTE TO-DAY.

To Be Presented by the Spanish Minister, Who Will Urge Speedy Compliance with Its Demands.

PROMPT ANSWER EXPECTED

REPLY MAY BE RETURNED TO THE DIPLOMATS ON THURSDAY.

Minister Wu Ting Fang of Opinion that the Terms Are Too Severe, but Hopes for Amicable Settlement.

POWERS TOO SLOW FOR JAPAN

PUBLIC SENTIMENT CHANGING IN FAVOR OF THE CHINESE.

Religious Zeal of Missionaries Regarded as a Standing Menace to the Peace of Oriental Nations.

TO BE HOME CHRISTMAS.

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia, Dec. 23.—Steamer Lake Champlain, having on board Col. Otter and 350 Canadian troops, returning from Liverpool and disembarked here. The order to land at St. John, N. B., had been canceled by the militia department. The time saved by the change will enable the Canadian troops to get home for Christmas. They started this afternoon on a special train for Montreal and Toronto.

Colonel Otter says the reception given him in Great Britain was magnificent. In Africa the Canadians were treated well by all the imperial officers. Lord Roberts in particular seemed to grasp the significance of the colonial assistance given to the mother country. He did everything possible to foster the connection. Colonel Otter considers the Free Staters better fighters than the Transvaal men and more intelligent. He saw no white flag abuse personally on the part of the Boers. The republicans had much better guns than the British. The Canadian officers speak very highly of Adelbert Hay, the United States consul, whom they met at Pretoria.

Among the returned soldiers are forty sick and wounded. One man is insane. The mayor and lieutenant governor visited the soldiers before they embarked and a salute in their honor was fired from the citadel.

FIVE CITIES CHOSEN

ANOTHER BALL LEAGUE TO BE LAUNCHED ON THURSDAY.

Conference Between Messrs. Johnson, Navin and Burnham, and a Meeting Called for at Chicago.

MINNEAPOLIS AND DETROIT.

KANSAS CITY, LOUISVILLE AND TOLEDO ALREADY SELECTED.

Sam Thompson to Have Franchise of the Kentucky Metropolitan-National League to Be Ignored.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—The American League, No. 3—the only name which can be given it until another is officially adopted—will be launched in this city next Thursday. At a conference to-night between President Johnson, of the American League; Attorney Navin, of Detroit; and George W. Burnham, it was decided to call a meeting for that purpose.

The league will be organized at first with five cities—Detroit, Toledo, Minneapolis, Kansas City and Louisville—but will eventually be made to include eight cities. This is not due to any lack of available territory, but is because the new league, like the American, is embarrassed by a surplus of good cities which desire franchises in the new body. Incidentally, it is also due to the fact that the American League's circuit is not yet definitely fixed, and it is not considered desirable to complete the new circuit until it is decided what cities will be abandoned by the American. Grand Rapids, Buffalo, St. Paul and Indianapolis are strong possibilities for the new league and there are a half dozen others who are applicants for franchises.

Mr. Navin came from New York for the conference, and was accompanied by Mr. Burnham, who boarded the train at Detroit. They will be President Johnson by appointment, and, after a brief conference, Mr. Navin returned to Detroit. "We are all ready to organize and have been for a week," said Mr. Navin. "We have simply been waiting for Mr. Johnson to return before going ahead with our plans. We want Mr. Johnson for president and will organize under his guidance and direction. We are looking for protection from the American League and are ready to live and die with the National League. We could form a strong circuit of eight clubs to-morrow if necessary, but prefer to wait and find out just what cities the American League will abandon so as to take in the best cities in the West."

It was announced to-night that "Sam" Thompson, the former Philadelphia player, would have the franchise in Louisville. He has been kept on the Philadelphia club's reserve list for four or five years without playing, and so could not break into the game elsewhere. Navin will be behind the Detroit club. President Stroebel, of the Interstate League, controls the Toledo club and plant already. In Kansas City James Manning has a baseball plant ready for occupation at any moment and will sell or lease it to the new promoters in short order. Southampton's lease of the Minneapolis grounds does not expire until July, and he is the logical backer in the city of miller-

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Diplomatic circles discussed with interest to-day the provisions of the joint agreement which has been signed by the representatives of the powers at Peking for presentation to the Chinese plenipotentiaries. The hope is generally expressed that the latter will not delay considering the note and thus pave the way for prompt negotiations for the settlement of peace terms. To Mr. Wu, the Chinese minister, the demands made by the powers are a keen disappointment and are not such, in his opinion, as should have animated the governments which have the ultimate best interests of the Chinese empire at heart. He regards them as harsh and severe, but expresses the hope that they will be discussed by both sides in an amicable and conciliatory spirit, and that the powers eventually will ameliorate many of the objectionable features. Mr. Wu expects that while Li Hung Chang and Prince Ching are fully qualified to act in the matter, yet the terms of the note will be sent by telegram to the court at its present abode, which is connected with Peking by telegraph.

Wu-Chang to Be an Open Port.

PARIS, Dec. 23.—The semi-official Temps announces, in confirmation of the press dispatches, that the victory of the Chinese of Hu-Pei and Hu-Nan declares that Wu Chang will be made an open port.

China Will Accept.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Dr. Morrison, wiring to the Times from Peking, Saturday, says that official Chinese declare that China will accept all the conditions of the joint note without "losing her face."

JAPANESE SENTIMENT CHANGING.

Now in Favor of Dealing Leniently with the Chinese.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.
YOKOHAMA, Dec. 5.—The wearisome and disappointing delays of the Peking diplomats are having a marked effect on public opinion in Japan, producing what may be regarded as almost a revolution of sentiment in favor of China. The native papers are now mainly ranged on the side of leniency in dealing with the chief instigators, not only from a practical point of view, looking at the supreme importance of inducing the government to return to Peking, but also owing to the inherent force of the spirit of patriotism which characterizes the Japanese natives. The Japanese are naturally asking themselves what they would have done under similar provocation. The answer has given rise to an outburst of something strongly resembling sympathy, and Japan is therefore ranging itself on the side of the nations which are counseling the most moderate terms possible in the negotiations with the Chinese court. It is noticeable also that even some of the foreign papers here are upon the same side, the Japan Mail conspicuously so.

The missionary question, of course, occupies a foremost place in the discussion. It is now felt as essential that the western powers take cognizance of the sentiment here that religious invasions are tantamount to filibustering expeditions, and should not only be discontinued, but stern measures should be adopted for their suppression. It is, of course, admitted that individual religious zeal in the line of propaganda cannot be interfered with, but the feeling here is that the mission boards constitute a standing menace to peaceful international relations, and Japan is therefore urging that they be suppressed.

The business stagnation continues and is exciting some alarm in foreign as well as in native circles. The harbor of Yokohama is well high denuded of shipping and there is a steady, though as yet, small exodus of foreign residents. When the Chinese troubles are settled, however, every one is looking for a substantial reward of trade and preparations for it are being made. In the meantime indignation against the inexcusable delays at Peking is waxing hot.

Nothing has yet been heard of the training ship Teikushim, which disappeared off the eastern coast in the recent great storm, and intense anxiety is felt for the fate of the ninety-one students on board. A warship has been dispatched in search.

The enthusiasm among the Japanese over the proposed memorial of the Perry expedition is increasing and something hand-

some will probably be the result of the movement. One paper remarking upon the changes brought by time recalls the fact that when Perry's ships were lying off Uraga the alarm in Yeddo was immense. A system of signals was arranged to keep the capital informed of all the movements of the "black vessels," especially with regard to the contingency that they might proceed to Yeddo. At first the citizens had an alterations of panics and reassurances, for whenever the tide turned the ships so that they rode with their bows northward signals were at once made announcing an advance against Yeddo, and when the tide flowed news of salvation was hastily dispatched. And now the Japanese are contributing largely to erect a monument to commemorate their advent.

WARM FIGHT PROBABLE.

Twelve Republican Candidates for the Two Nebraska Senatorships.

LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 23.—Assistant Secretary of War Melkjohn will arrive in Lincoln to-morrow to assume personal management of his canvass for a United States Senate seat. The Nebraska Legislature, which convenes the 1st of January, will have two senators to elect—a successor to John M. Thurston and a senator to fill the vacancy caused by the death of M. L. Hayward, being filled at present by William V. Allen by appointment of the Governor. There are a dozen candidates for the vacant seats, the more prominent, aside from Mr. Melkjohn, being E. Rosewater and Congressman Mercer, of Omaha; D. E. Thompson, of Lincoln; former Congressman Halner, of Aurora; L. D. Richards, of Fremont; E. H. Hinshaw, of Fairbury; and former Gov. Lorenzo Crouse, of Fort Calhoun, himself a member of the State Senate.

NO CHRISTMAS RIDES

PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE LACKAWANNA VALLEY MUST WALK.

All Trolley Lines Tied Up by a Strike of Three Hundred Employees Which Began Sunday Morning.

SHORTER WORK DAY DEMANDED

ALSO 20 CENTS AN HOUR FOR OLD EMPLOYEES OF THE COMPANY.

Same Demand Made by the Men of the Wilkesbarre and Wyoming Valley Electric Company.

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 23.—Every one of the 300 car and barn employees of the Scranton Railway Company obeyed the strike order which went into effect at 5 o'clock this morning, and as a consequence only two cars were run in all of the Lackawanna valley to-day. These two cars were manned by Superintendent Patterson and dispatchers, foremen and clerks. No attempt was made to molest them, and although rain fell a greater part of the day, the two cars seldom had a passenger.

The tied-up region extends from Pittston to Forest City, a distance of thirty miles, and includes sixty-five miles of track, on which are run eighty cars. The men of the Wyoming Valley Traction Company operating all the lines south of Pittston as far as Nanticoke, threaten to go on strike Thursday. With both companies tied up there would be total cessation of street-car traffic in a busy stretch of country eighty miles north, including the four big cities of Scranton, Wilkesbarre, Pittston and Carbondale.

The strikers met to-night and appointed committees to man the different depots. They are to watch out for men who, it is reported, have been recruited in Philadelphia to take their places. They will also distribute cards to strangers notifying them of the strike and asking them not to ride on trolley cars. An appeal to the local public was also issued, asking that the cars be not patronized.

The men demand 20 cents an hour for old employees and from 15 to 17½ cents for new men. At present the new men receive an average of 15 cents an hour, and after four years' service this is raised to 17½ cents. They also demand a ten-hour day instead of as at present.

The company, in its answer to the grievance committee, says it is not in a position to afford any increase in wages at the present time. President Clark arrived to-night, and stated that the road would be operated with new men if old men cannot be secured.

Must Decide by Thursday.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Dec. 23.—The employees of the Wilkesbarre & Wyoming Valley Electric Railway Company and the officials of the company met in conference to-day to talk over certain grievances which the men submitted to the company on Saturday. The employees demand a shorter workday and 20 cents an hour for every hour worked. President Rigg said he wanted to be fair with the men, but their demands were too sweeping and the company could not afford to grant them. As a compromise President Rigg offered the men 15 cents an hour, but no reduction in the hours of labor. The conductors and motormen refused to accept this offer, and the company until Thursday to decide whether or not the original demands would be granted. After the conference President Rigg declined to talk, but it is understood he will not grant the demands and a strike is likely to follow.

Girls Want a Holiday.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Dec. 23.—Two hundred and fifty girls employed at the Wyoming Valley lace mills, this city, have notified the management that they will not report for work to-morrow. They go out in sympathy with the weavers of the mill, who have been out on strike for nine months. The failure of the girls to report for work will necessitate total suspension.

Patrick Furlong Pardoned.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Former Policeman Patrick Furlong, who killed Edward Leach, a brother officer, and was sentenced to the penitentiary for fourteen years, has been pardoned by Governor Tanner. Furlong, who is of Irish parentage, and Leach, an Englishman, were arguing about the Boer war. Leach's declaration that England could whip any country on earth led to blows and both men drew revolvers. Furlong shot first with fatal effect. The crime occurred in February of this year.

LOYAL NATIVES

FILIPINOS FRIENDLY TO AMERICANS ORGANIZE AUTONOMY PARTY.

Council of Twenty-Five Members is Elected After Adoption of the Declaration of Principles.

SENIOR PATERNO A MEMBER

ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL OF THE FORMER REBEL LEADERS.

Related News of a Fight in Southern Luzon, in Which the Filipinos Lost Forty-Five Men Killed.

PROBLEMS OF GOVERNMENT

DIFFICULTIES FOUND BY THE PHILIPPINE ADMINISTRATORS.

Several Questions, Including Currency, Worrying the Officers in Charge of Civil Affairs.

MANILA, Dec. 23.—The recently organized Autonomy party was launched to-day at a meeting attended by virtually all the loyal Filipino leaders in Manila. The declaration of principles was read and after some discussion was adopted by a vote of 123, less than half a dozen declining to vote. All signed an indorsement of the platform, including Senior Paterno, one of the most influential of the former insurgent leaders, whose real attitude toward American authority had much questioned. The principal discussion was with reference to the organization of the government of the party. A council of twenty-five members was elected, together with an executive committee, including Senior Arellano, chief justice of the Supreme Court, Mr. Frank H. Bourne, Senior Amrosia Flores, a former insurgent general, Senior Florentino Torres; attorney general for the Philippines, Senior Jos. E. Near, prosecuting attorney, and Senior Tomas Del Rosario. The smallest number of votes received by any candidate was 81.

Advices brought to-day by steamer from southern Luzon say that a lieutenant and sixty men of the Ninth United States Cavalry attacked a large body of insurgents last Wednesday, near Gulnabatatan, province of Albay. After the battle forty-five dead insurgents were counted, together with many wounded. The only American casualty was the wounding of a sergeant, who was carried by several rebels and struck in the leg by a bolo. The rebel loss was the heaviest recorded among the recent encounters. The cutting of the wires has delayed the official report of the engagement.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT PROBLEMS.

Questions Which Are Troubling Army Officers at Manila.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The War Department has made public a series of reports made to General MacArthur by the subordinate officers constituting the heads of the various bureaus and departments which have administered the civil affairs of the Philippine islands during the last year. These are closely but sufficiently summarized in the report of Lieutenant Colonel Crowder, Thirty-ninth Infantry, secretary to the military governor. Under the head of the treasury department it is said that the problem of securing a stable currency has never approached a definite solution in the Philippines, though it had not pressed for immediate settlement until very recently, when United States and Mexican dollars were for a few days evenly exchanged. This was terminated by a provisional order whereby the government arranged to reimburse the banks for any losses they might sustain through paying out Mexican silver dollars for United States currency. Doubt is expressed, however, as to the desirability of continuing this arrangement.

The customs service is discussed at some length in the report, and it is stated that there does not seem to be any present necessity for an increase in the number of ports of entry. Attention is directed to the marked increase in the customs receipts under American management. This is explained in part by the fact that formerly a large part of the imports came from Spain and paid no duties. Also the American system of collection is said to tend to honest collections. The new tariff adopted for the island is set out in detail. In almost every case specific duties are fixed, following the established system in the islands, which it was believed to be dangerous to change to the ad valorem system.

The extension of the United States immigration laws to the islands without substantial change to meet the local conditions is said to have proven of doubtful expediency, and especially so with regard to the contract labor law. It is essential, says the report, for the mercantile interests to secure employees from abroad under contract, else business will suffer. These laborers do not come into competition with the native residents. More than 25,000 Chinese entered and left the islands last year. Only one-ninth of the land in the archipelago has been brought under cultivation, and there is no land tax.

Regarding the judicial department, it early was found to be necessary to provide a system which would be devised of those harsh and oppressive features so much in conflict with American standards. It was impossible, for lack of time, to supply an entirely new system, so some changes regarded as indispensable were made by a statute change to meet the local conditions of the law as thus qualified have been satisfactory in securing to defendants in criminal cases the fundamental rights of Anglo-Saxon criminal law. The writ of habeas corpus has been frequently invoked, and under its speedy operation nearly one hundred prisoners, the heritage of the Spanish regime, have been liberated from unwarranted detention.

Colonel Crowder thoroughly indorses the recommendation of Lieutenant Burritt, in charge of the mining bureau, looking to a thorough change in the mining laws. He says that these are extremely cumbersome and that once they are brought up to American standards the mineral condition of the country soon will be enormously improved, as experienced prospectors and

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SHOT TWO MEN

HOW JOSEPH DOUGLASS RESENTED THE INVASION OF HIS HOME.

Put Out the Eyes of Frank Parish and Bored a Hole in the Back of Charles Doyle.